

## Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

**Population coverage.** The figures shown are for the civilian noninstitutional population.

**Geographic regions.** The four major regions of the United States, for which data are presented in this report, represent groups of States, as follows:

*Northeast:* Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

*North Central:* Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

*South:* Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

*West:* Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**College enrollment.** The college enrollment statistics are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person was attending or enrolled in college. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year, except those who have left for the remainder of the term. Thus, regular college enrollment includes those persons attending a 4-year or 2-year college, university or professional school (such as medical or law school), in courses that may advance the student toward a recognized college or university degree (e.g. BA or MA). Attendance may be either full time or part time, during the day or night.

**Two-year and four-year college.** Students enrolled in the first 3 years of college were asked to report whether the college in which they were enrolled was a 2-year college (junior or community college) or a 4-year college or university. Students in the fourth academic year of college or higher were assumed to be in a 4-year college or university.

**Public or private school.** In this report, a public school is defined as any educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and supported by public

funds. Private schools include educational institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control. In cases where enrollment was in a school or college which was both publicly and privately controlled or supported, enrollment was counted according to whether it was primarily public or private.

**Full-time and part-time attendance.** College students were classified, in this report, according to whether they were attending school on a full-time or part-time basis. A student was regarded as attending college full time if he was taking 12 or more hours of classes during the average school week, and part time if he was taking less than 12 hours of classes during the average school week.

**Major field of study.** Field of study of college students was determined by responses to the following question in October 1978 and similar questions in earlier years:

52. What is . . . 's major field of study?

Agriculture or home econ. . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	Health, Nursing, Medical Prof. . . . .	<input type="radio"/>
Biological sciences . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	Mathematics or Statistics . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>
Business, Commerce, Accounting . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	Physical or Earth Sciences . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>
Education . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	Social Sciences ( <i>History, Econ.,</i>	<input type="radio"/>
Engineering . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<i>Psychology, Poli. Sci., etc.</i> ) . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>
English or Journalism . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	Vocational—Technical Studies	<input type="radio"/>
Liberal Arts or Humanities ( <i>Fine Arts,</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<i>(Law Enforcement, Drafting, etc.)</i> . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Religion, Music, Languages, etc.</i> ) . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	Other ( <i>Specify below</i> ) . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>
Law . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	No Major . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>
		Don't Know . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>
Other ( <i>Specify</i> ) . . . . .			

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**Age.** The age classification is based on the age of the person at the person's last birthday.

**Race.** The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except White and Black.

**Spanish origin.** Information on origin or descent was obtained by asking "What is (this person's) origin or descent?" Responses generally refer to a person's perceived national or ethnic lineage and do not necessarily indicate the country of birth of himself or his parents. The category

Spanish origin includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

**Marital status.** The marital status category shown in this report, "married, spouse present," includes persons who are currently married and living with their spouse.

**Family.** The term "family," as used here, refers to a group of two persons or more related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of one family.

**Primary family.** A primary family is a family that includes among its members the person or couple who maintains the household.

**Householder.** One person in each family residing together is designated as the householder. That person is usually the person regarded as the one who maintains the family. Women are not so classified if their husbands are resident members at the time of the survey.

**Dependent family member.** For the purposes of this report, a dependent family member is a relative of the family householder excluding any member who is married, spouse present. Such persons are generally sons and daughters of the householder. Family members who are living away from home while attending college are usually counted as dependent family members.

**Years of school completed.** Data on years of school completed in this report were derived from the combination of answers to two questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school he has ever attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?"

The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools include graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day schools or night schools. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate, high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling in other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system.

**Family income.** Income as defined in this report represents the combined total money income of the family before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, bonds, etc. It is the algebraic sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings received by all family members during the 12 months prior to the surveys. It should be noted that although the family income statistics refer to receipts during the previous 12 months, the characteristics of the person, such as age, marital status, etc., and the composition of families refer to the date of the survey.

The income table 7 includes in the lowest income group those who were classified as having no income in the previous 12 months and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income.

Table 7 includes a separate category for families for which no income information was obtained. In most of the other Current Population Reports showing income data, the missing income data have been allocated.

The money income level of families shown in this report may be somewhat understated. Income data from the October control card are based on the respondent's estimate of total family money income for the preceding 12 months coded in broad, fixed income intervals. Income data collected in the March supplement to the Current Population Survey are based on responses to 11 direct questions asked of all persons 14 years old and over identifying 23 different sources of income and cover the preceding calendar year.

Previous research has shown that the use of broad income intervals to record money income tends to reduce the rate of nonreporting while increasing the likelihood that the amounts reported will be significantly understated as compared with results from more detailed questions.

**Symbols.** A dash (—) represents zero or rounds to zero, and the symbol "B" means that the base for the derived figure is less than 75,000. An "X" means not applicable, and "NA" means not available.

**Rounding of estimates.** Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. With few exceptions, percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.